(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when it is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) Government of Bangladesh made a proposal in June 2005 for certain new bus routes including Dhaka-Guwahati. This, along with our own proposals, are being discussed with the Government of Bangladesh.

Government of India have made proposals to strengthen waterways under the Indo-Bangladesh Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade. Government of Bangladesh have not responded to our proposals.

Revival of democracy in Nepal

3536. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government mediated between the King and the leaders of the seven party alliance (SPA) for revival of the process of democracy in Nepal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government also sponsored/delegated individuals as its emissaries to hold talks with the leaders of the banned Maoist outfits in Nepal;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the broad objectives, if any, behind the initiatives taken by Government during the recent pro-democracy agitation in Nepal and role of the banned Maoist outfit therein; and

(f) the role, if any, being envisaged of itself by Government in the present situation in Nepal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Government wishes to see the emergence of a peaceful, stable and prosperous Nepal, that is free from the threat of violence. India, as a close and friendly neighbour, will contribute to this end to the best of its ability and resources, and looks forward to working together with the new Government in Nepal in this regard.

Withdrawal of troops from Siachen

3537. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Pakistan has come closer to an understanding on withdrawal of troops from Siachen with Islamabad inclined 'in-principle' to acknowledge current Indian troops positions on the glacier;

(b) if so, whether any agreement in this regard between these two countries have been reached and signed;

(c) if so, the details thereof and whether this agreement is a positive step and would help in solving other issues between two countries; and

(d) whether all the difference in this regard have completely been settled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) No agreement has been signed between India and Pakistan on the Siachen issue. India's position on this issue is that authentication of the presently held positions has to be the first step before any redeployment of troops is considered.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No.

Agreement to fight terrorism

3538. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and US have agreed to jointly fight terrorism in India and other parts of the world;